

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 L-03 FRB-03 OMB-01
ITC-01 SP-02 ICA-11 AGRE-00 AID-05 CIAE-00
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P 110940Z APR 78
FM USMISSION GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8181
AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS PRIORITY

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USEEC

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: UNCTAD, ETRD
SUBJECT: UNCTAD COPPER MEETING, APRIL 17 - 21, 1978

1. MISSION COMMODITIES OFFICER WAS ADVISED ON MONDAY BY EC DEL TO JUTE MEETING THAT A COORDINATING MEETING ON COPPER WAS HELD AT THE EC COMMISSION IN BRUSSELS LAST WEEK. WHILE THE EC DEL DID NOT HAVE MANY SPECIFICS, HE INDICATED THAT ONE OF THE MAJOR INTERVENTIONS DURING THAT MEETING WAS BY MICHAEL JOHNSON OF THE UK. JOHNSON REPORTEDLY INDICATED THAT THE UK HAD UNDERTAKEN A THOROUGH ANALYSIS OF THE ISSUE OF THE RELATIONSHIP OF A PRODUCER/CONSUMER FORUM ON COPPER TO UNCTAD, STARTING FROM THE BASIS THAT THE BODY SHOULD BE TOTALLY INDEPENDENT OF UNCTAD. HOWEVER, BY THE TIME THEY HAD COMPLETED THEIR WORK, THEY CAME TO THE CONCLUSION THAT IN FACT THIS BODY COULD NOT AND SHOULD NOT BE INDEPENDENT OF UNCTAD.

2. THESE ARE ADMITTEDLY VERY VAGUE AND SKETCHY COMMENTS ON
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WHAT HAPPENED AT THE MEETING BUT THE MISSION IS CONCERNED ABOUT THE IMPLICATIONS OF SUCH A UK POSITION AND WOULD FIND IT USEFUL IF EMBASSY LONDON AND USEC COULD MAKE FURTHER INQUIRIES AS TO THE UK POSITION AND THE POSITION THE EC MIGHT TAKE RESPECTIVELY. AS NOTED IN SEVERAL RECENT CABLES ON COMMODITY MEETINGS, MISSION IS BECOMING INCREASINGLY CONCERNED OVER THE ROLE BEING PLAYED BY THE UK. WE SEEM TO

FIND OURSELVES MORE AND MORE IN THE POSITION OF THE UK
PUSHING FOR COMPROMISES WHICH GO AGAINST THE US POSITION AND
HAVE FOUND THAT THE POSITIONS TAKEN BY THE UK DELS DURING
THE MEETINGS ARE OFTEN DIFFERENT FROM THOSE WE ARE LED TO
BELIEVE WILL BE TAKEN PRIOR TO THE MEETING.

3. THE MISSION HAS RECEIVED A DRAFT COPY OF AN INTERNAL
UNCTAD SECRETARIAT PAPER PREPARED AT THE REQUEST OF SEVERAL
LDC PRODUCERS DEALING WITH THE QUESTION OF LINKAGE TO
UNCTAD. THIS DOCUMENT IS NOT WELL STRUCTURED AND THE SPECI-
FIC WAY A BODY COULD BE LINKED TO UNCTAD IS LEFT UNCLEAR
EXCEPT FOR THE ONE OPTION OF CREATING A COMMITTEE ON COPPER
SIMILAR TO THE COMMITTEE ON TUNGSTEN, RESPONSIBLE TO THE
TRADE DEVELOPMENT BOARD. THE PAPER DOES STATE THAT WITH
RESPECT TO SUCH AN OPTION, THE SECRETARIAT FEELS THERE IS
UNLIKELY TO BE ANY SUPPORT EXCEPT FROM CHINA, PERU AND
NORWAY. THE MAIN THRUST OF THE PAPER SEEMS TO BE TO CREATE
A BODY WHICH WOULD ENABLE UNCTAD TO RETAIN THE POSSIBILITY
OF TAKING INITIATIVES ON ITS OWN. THE MAIN DISTINCTION THE
SECRETARIAT SEEMS TO BE DRAWING IS BETWEEN THE FUNCTIONS OF
SUCH A BODY RELATED TO DECISION MAKING AS COMPARED TO THOSE
RELATED TO RESEARCH, PREPARATION OF DOCUMENTS, STATISTICS
GATHERING, ETC. MISSION OFFICER IS HAVING LUNCH ON WEDNES-
DAY WITH CANADIAN AND AUSTRALIAN REPS WHO HAVE ALSO GATHERED
SOME FURTHER INFORMATION ON CURRENT THINKING IN THE UNCTAD
SECRETARIAT AND SEVERAL OTHER PRODUCERS AND WILL REPORT ANY
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NEW INFORMATION FOLLOWING THAT LUNCHEON. VANDEN HEUVEL

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